

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0166

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: AORG, UN, AFIN, UR, APER

SUBJECT: VISIT OF USYG GEORGE DAVIDSON TO SOVIET UNION

SUMMARY: MISOFF QUERIED USYG DAVIDSON ON HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO MOSCOW. DAVIDSON SAID PURPOSE OF VISIT WAS TO ATTEMPT TO ELECIT FROM SOV OFFICIALS USSR PARTICIPATION IN RESOLVING UN DEFICIT PROBLEM BUT THAT HE HAD BEEN INVITED BY SOVS TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS. DAVIDSON SAID HE INTENDS TO STICK TO HIS OWN AGENDA, WHICH IS MONEY FIRST AND PERSONNEL SECOND AND, IF SOVS WILL NOT DISCUSS MONEY, HE WILL NOT DISCUSS PERSONNEL. DAVIDSON PROVIDED MISOFF WITH DETAILS ON MATTERS HE INTENDS TO TAKE UP WITH SOV OFFICIALS AND SAID HE WOULD PROVIDE FULL DEBRIEFING TO MISOFF UPON HIS RETURN.

1. USYG DAVIDSON (CANADIAN) CONFIRMED TO MISOFF YESTERDAY THAT HE WOULD BE LEAVING JAN 27 FOR SOVIET UNION TO DISCUSS UN DEFICIT AND PERSONNEL QUESTIONS. DURING 28TH UNGA SOV MISSION HAD REQUESTED DAVIDSON TO VISIT USSR IN ORDER DISCUSS WITH SOV OFFICIALS UN PERSONNEL MATTERS. AT THAT TIME DAVIDSON EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO MAKE TRIP BUT TOLD SOVS THAT FIRST ITEM ON HIS AGENDA WOULD BE MONEY, AND ONLY THEN PERSONNEL.

2. RE-AFFIRMATION OF THIS APPROACH WAS GIVEN ON JAN 16 BY DAVIDSON TO MISOFF, WITH FORMER SAYING THAT UN SECRETARIAT

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AND DAVIDSON PERSONALLY OVER LAST TWO YEARS HAD MADE CONCERTED

EFFORT TO IMPORVE REPRESENTATION OF SOV NATIONALS IN UN SECRETARIAT. HE SAID IT IS NOW TIME FOR SOVS TO RESPOND IN KIND BY DEMONSTRATING WILLINGNESS TO ENTER INTO DISCUSSIONS

IN ORDER TO RESOLVE UN DEFICIT. DAVIDSON ASSURED MISOFF THAT HE INTENDED TO TALK TOUGH WITH SOVS AND, UNLESS THEY WERE WILLING TO DISCUSS IN SPECIFIC TERMS THEIR PARTICIPTION IN RESOLVING CONTINUING

DEFICIT PROBLEM, HE (DAVIDSON) WOULD NOT DISCUSS WITH SOVS ANY ASPECTS OF PERSONNEL. DAVIDSON SAID HE HAD CONVEYED THIS TO AMB MAKEYEV DURING COURSE OF NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS AS WELL AS TO AMB MALIK. ONLY RESPONSE HE HAD BEEN GIVEN BY SOVS WAS DOG-EARED ONE THAT SOV PARTICIPTION IN RESOLVING UN DEFICIT PROBLEM COULD ONLY RESULT AFTER US HAD TAKEN FIRST STEP.

3. DURING HIS UPCOMING DISCUSSIONS IN MOSCOW DAVIDSON SAID HE HOPED TO TALK AT LENGTH WITH VICTOR ISSRAELYAN, FORMER SOV DEP PERM REP IN NEW YORK, WHO HE BELIEVED WOULD BE LESS DOGMATIC, MORE APPROACHABLE,

AND HAVE A CLEARER UNDERSTANDING OF UN'S FINANCIAL PROBLEMS THAN DID ISSRAELYAN'S PREDECESSOR NOVIK V. DAVIDSON PLANS TO DETERMINE UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS SOV WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE A VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION; PRESS FOR ACCEPTANCE BY SOVS OF UN USAGE OF RUBLE DEPOSITS APPROX-IMATING \$10 MILLION FOR UN REGULAR PROGRAM OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, WHICH HERETOFORE HAVE BEEN NONCOVERTIBLE AND THUS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO UN;; USE OF SAME ACCOUNT TO DEFRAY COST OF OPERATING UN INFO CENTER IN MOSCOW AND RUSSIAN LANGUAGE INSTITUTE, FOR WHICH UN NOW EXPENDS DOLLARS; AND PAYMENT IN FUTURE BY USSR TO UN OF ITS CONTRIBUTIONS ON MORE TIMELY BASIS AND ON FULLY CONVERTIBLE BASIS.

4. FINALLY, DAVIDSON S*ID HE INTENDS TO SUGGEST TO SOV OFFICIALS THAT TIME HAS COME WHEN USSR AND US SHOULD SIT DOWN TO DISCUSS RESOLUTIONS OF UN DEFICIT PROBLEM; HE SAID HE WOULD EMPHASIZE THAT SOVS DO SO IN CONSTRUCTIVE MANNER AND TAKE FRESCH APPROACH SINCE THEIR INFLEXIBILITY AND NEGATIVISM DEMONSTRATED IN PAST WOULD ILL SERVE UN AND BE UNPRODUCTIVE. DAVIDSON REITERATED HIS HOPE THAT ON THIS SCORE ISSRAELYAN MIGHT BE MORE RESPONSIVE. HE POINTED OUT TO MISOFF THAT
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HE HAD NOT DISCUSSED HOW HE INTENDED TO PROCEED DURING THESE DISCUSSIONS WITH AMB MALIK BECAUSE, IN DAVIDSONS OPINION, MALIK'S INFLEXIBILITY AND PRIOR BEHAVIOR ON SUBJECT WOULD ILL SERVE PURPOSE OF HIS MOSCOW VISIT. TO DEMONSTRATE LATTER POINT, DAVIDSON TOLD MISOFF THAT IN RECENT CONVERSATION WITH MALIK LATTER HAD CONFIRMED THAT DAVIDSON WOULD BE HOST OF SOV GOVT WITHIN USSR BUT, OF COURSE, UN WAS EXPECTED TO PAY DAVIDSON'S TRAVEL EXPENSES TO AND

FROM MOSCOW. DAVIDSON SAID MALIK'S NITPICKING ON THIS
INSIGNIFICANT ITEM DEMONSTRATED HIS
UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO APPROACH
THIS OR ANY OTHER PROBLEM FROM FRESH PERSPECTIVE.

5. DAVIDSON TOLD MISOFF THAT UPON HIS RETURN FROM MOSCOW VIA
BEIRUT HE WOULD PROVIDE A FULL DEBRIEFING ON RESULTS OF HIS VISIT.
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